Aden

000 inexhaustible energy had reduced me to a physical and nervous wreck—and I was the younger man.

561 Near Mukalla to the east beyond the landing ground at
346 Riyan is the collegiate town of Ghil-Ba-Wazir, so called by
• 249 me because it seemed to consist of nothing but schools sur-
439 rounded by a few fields of Hammumi tobacco which normally
871 was exported to Egypt via Aden. Primary schools and a large State Intermediate School with a considerable boarding establishment catered for the youth of Mukalla and the more
[875] advanced pupils from all over the State. The masters, who were local men or Sudanese on contract, always left me with an impression of keenness, competence and contentment. From Ghil-Ba-Wazir the more promising pupils went on to Aden College or the Technical Institute in Aden, or to a Secondary School in the Sudan, depending on the inclination of the parents or of the Mukalla Government if they were financing the boys' further education.

315 Up in the vast open spaces of the northern limits of the State, survey parties of Petroleum Concessions Ltd. moved farther and farther into territory which was practically unknown to Europeans, on their ceaseless quest for oil, spurred on by recent increases in the cost of their prospecting licence. As these parties pushed their way northwards so did similar parties from the Arabian-American Oil Company at Dhahran on the Persian Gulf in Saudi Arabia move steadily southward with their portable drilling rigs drawn by great tractors and their air-conditioned living caravans, across the great yellow sand dunes of the Ruba-al-Khali.

712 The frontier became of considerable importance, much more
312 so than it had ever been before and we found it advisable to
626 exercise a greater degree of control over our tribes than had been necessary or desirable in the past. The Sultan was concerned about the peace of these northern marches, and, fearing an act of aggression, felt that steps should be taken to safeguard the well at Thamud, the only available water for many miles around. This was done by building a fort, constructing a landing strip and flying in a garrison of soldiers of the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion. Later, similar measures were taken over to

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MMI Aden M M1

501 The craft used are of two kinds, the sambuk, which is a planked surf-boat of up to 35 feet long, and the huri, a dugout canoe imported from India to which a topstrake is usually added locally. Huris range from 8 to 30 feet and are popular because they can withstand neglect and rough usage. No power-craft are yet used for fishing. During 1948 there were 34 sambuks and 341 huris in the Colony.

286 Nets are all hand-braided locally. There are several types which
226 operate by surrounding a shoal of pelagic fish which are then induced to gill themselves. Beach seins are also used and cast-nets are popular for small shoaling fish. Handlines are used extensively but longlines are not known.

435 Although prices are generally higher for consumption fresh than for salting, lack of transport prevents fish from reaching the Colony's markets in any quantity from outside a few miles radius. In consequence, landings are spasmodic and prices fluctuate widely, to the detriment of both fisherman and consumer. There is no provision for dealing with temporary gluts except by salting for export. Salt fish is beyond the means of the poorer people, as loss of weight during curing increases its price.

226 In short, the Colony's fishing industry is not at present able to maintain a steady supply of fish for a community of 80,000 people. A Fishery Officer has, however, been appointed and it is hoped that he will be able to improve the position in years to come.

[439] The island of Perim at the mouth of the Red Sea is part of the Crown Colony. The Perim fishing community comprises between 20 and 30 families, who salt and export their surplus fish to an annual value of between Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 20,000. The Perim pearl fisheries have not been let since 1946, when the lessee is reported to have lost money on the enterprise.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

504 As already stated, the main industry is the bunkering of ships and
473 the handling of cargo. These activities are in the hands of large firms, the
167 labour employed consisting almost entirely of immigrant Yemeni Arabs who come south for a year or two, leaving their wives at home, and return when they have accumulated sufficient money.

433 There are some small factories owned by private companies. The
473 chief are soap works, aluminium pressing of domestic utensils, cutting of button blanks from trochas shell, manufacture of cigarettes and dyeing and printing of cloth. These (with the exception of button blanks) supply the local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

286 Of industries organised among small producers, the principal one is
249 the weaving of cloth, by one-man treadle-operated handlooms. This supplies Aden and adjoining territories. Small crushing plants, with one camel turning a mill, extract sesame oil for cooking purposes.

463 The industries supplying the domestic market are mostly in the hands of individual craftsmen, or a master craftsman with a few assistants. Such are tailors, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, garage mechanics, bakers, confectioners, potters, barbers, washermen and cobblers.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MMI Aden MMI

skipper, one engineer and six crew, one accountant and one clerk/interpreter. A few statistical posts are operating in the Protectorate but Colony statistics on a weight basis will not be collected until April, 1953.

Local fishermen are encouraged to increase yields by using better materials, different gear, powered boats and to fish in any newly discovered areas, particularly off-shore. In addition the setting up of co-operative societies, a debt settlement organisation and better run markets are contemplated.

A Government loans fund of £2,000 per annum for fishermen was created in 1950. Two fishermen have mechanised their sambuks; corks for floating nets have replaced pieces of wood; more and more fishing nets are being made from machine-made twines; and better shark-fishing tackle is being introduced. Manufactured net preservatives and nylon traces are beginning to be used by the hand-line fishermen.

Fisheries Committee

A Government Fisheries Committee was appointed in 1951 to direct the activities of the Fisheries Department. Much of the progress mentioned above has been achieved since its creation. The Committee suggested a radical change in fish marketing, the setting up of a marketing organisation, debt settlement, long-term credit for fishermen, the repeal of restrictive fisheries laws and greater efforts by the Fisheries Department to find further fishing grounds and new methods suitable for the local fishing industry. All these suggestions have been favourably considered by Government and it is hoped that development will not be slow once the necessary steps have been taken.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

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There are some small factories owned by private companies. The chief products are soap, soft drinks, aluminium pressed domestic utensils, cigarettes and dyed and printed cloth. These supply local demand and provide for export to adjoining territories.

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